

Stroem (*Nym. Saml. Danske*, 1788, 295, n. 111, f. 20) described a *Lepas testd compressd 7-valvis stipite lamellosd*, found on *Gorgonia placomus* in the North Sea, which is probably allied to this genus.—*From the Proceedings of the Zool. Soc. for March 14, 1848.*

POST-OFFICE REGULATIONS.

The speedy and cheap transmission of intelligence is of the highest importance for the interests of science. The want of it has been a subject of general complaint, and the editors of scientific journals can but too well appreciate the inconvenience, discouragement and loss which it occasions.

In the Advertisement prefixt to the eighth volume of the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, the Council regret the difficulty and delay in receiving scientific information. "With other countries," they observe, "and for larger parcels, the communication is most unsatisfactory. The expenses and extra charges at the English ports are equivalent to a negative upon direct intercourse, even where the freight is prepaid, and the duty trifling. The Post-office charges for pamphlets over-sea are the same as for letters. Until these matters are better regulated, a greater service can scarcely be rendered to scientific bodies than by facilitating the rapid transfer of international communications at a moderate cost."

Our friend Mr. Thompson of Belfast, in communicating to us the letter from Dr. Gould of Boston, U.S., has also directed the attention of our readers to the defective state of our means of communication, at p. 366 of our last volume; and we are glad to find that the hope which we there expressed has in some degree been realized, the subject having at length received attention from the authorities of the Post-office, by whom some important improvements have been introduced. With a view therefore to render these available, we subjoin the following particulars from the Post-office regulations of the most recent date.

Periodicals published as pamphlets, and parliamentary proceedings, provided they are made up in the same manner as newspapers, in covers open at the sides, so as to admit of examination, are forwarded to the countries mentioned below at the following rates, which must be prepaid either in stamps or money.

Weighting and not exceeding	s.	d.	Weighting and not exceeding	s.	d.
..... „ 2 ozs..	0	1	9 ozs.. „ 10 ozs..	1	8
2 ozs.. „ 3 * ..	0	6	10 „ .. „ 11 „ ..	1	10
3 „ .. „ 4 „ ..	0	8	11 „ .. „ 12 „ ..	2	0
4 „ .. „ 5 „ ..	0	10	12 „ .. „ 13 „ ..	2	2
5 „ .. „ 6 „ ..	1	0	13 „ .. „ 14 „ ..	2	4
6 „ .. „ 7 „ ..	1	2	14 „ .. „ 15 „ ..	2	6
7 „ .. „ 8 „ ..	1	4	15 „ .. „ 16 „ ..	2	8
8 „ .. „ 9 „ ..	1	6			

Beyond the weight of 16 ounces, they can only be forwarded at letter rates of postage.

* We cannot see the reasonableness of the scale in one particular; where the charge for 3 ozs. is six times as much as for 2 ozs.—ED.

The countries to and from which the above rates are applicable are :

Belgium,	United States of America*	
Bremen,	Prussia {	
France,		<i>via</i> Belgium †,
Holland,		<i>via</i> Holland,
	<i>via</i> Hamburg.	

The rates to which parliamentary proceedings are liable when sent to the colonies, the rates for letters, prices current, &c., to the colonies and foreign parts in detail by every route, and numerous other particulars as to the despatch and arrivals of mails, &c. &c., will be found in the 'Post-Office Official Monthly Director,' corrected and published on the 1st of every month by Letts, Son and Steer, 8 Cornhill, price 1s. per single copy, or 8s. per annum.

THE TUI, OR PARSON-BIRD.

The 'Dido,' Capt. Maxwell, from Auckland, New Zealand, has brought home a few valuable curiosities for naturalists, the chief of which is a small black bird, about the size of the English blackbird, called the Tui (the parson-bird of Captain Cook), believed to be the first of the species ever brought to England alive. Many previous attempts have been made to bring this bird to England, but all hitherto have failed.—*From the Times.*

OBITUARY.—MR. EDWARD FORSTER.

We have to record the decease of our highly esteemed friend Edward Forster, Esq., F.R.S., the Treasurer and a Vice-President of the Linnæan Society, of which Society also he was one of the oldest Fellows. Mr. Forster died on Wednesday, February the 21st, after a severe attack of cholera of less than two days' continuance, having previously enjoyed his usual and equable good health up to his 84th year. His strong attachment to his favourite botanical pursuits, and his zeal for the prosperity of the Linnæan Society, of whose eminent founder Sir J. E. Smith he had been an intimate and warmly attached friend, require an ampler record than can now be given of one who in every relation of life was truly estimable :

Quem licet in sera rapuerunt fata senecta,
 Et vitæ saturum sopiit alta quies,
 Nos tamen hunc, velut immaturo funere raptum,
 Flemus, et effusis diffluimus lacrymis.

Vixisti bene ac beate !

. valente

Semper corpore, mente sana, amicis

Jucundus, pietate singulari.

* The regulations for forwarding periodicals to and from the United States are precisely the same as for the other countries mentioned, but in the case of pamphlets not being periodicals, to and from the United States, the weight is limited to 8 ozs.

† Periodicals, &c., when sent to Prussia *via* Belgium, are subject to a Belgian transit rate of 2*d.* per quarter ounce, in addition to the above rates. In charging works of this description, when more than one copy is under the same band, each copy is weighed and charged separately.